



Newsletter for English Teachers July 2005

This Newsletter for English Teachers is a monthly publication by the Information Resource Centers in Germany. It focuses on American Studies topics of relevance to our academic audiences.

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INDEPENDENCE DAY - JULY 4, 2005

Independence Day is regarded as the birthday of the United States as a free and independent nation. Most Americans simply call it the "Fourth of July," on which date it always falls. The holiday recalls the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. At that time, the people of the 13 British colonies located along the eastern coast of what is now the United States were involved in a war over what they considered unjust treatment by the king and parliament in Britain. It is a day of picnics and patriotic parades, a night of concerts and fireworks. The flying of the American flag (which also occurs on Memorial Day and other holidays) is widespread. On July 4, 1976, the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence was marked by grand festivals across the nation.

- **About the USA > Holidays > Independence Day**
<http://usa.usembassy.de/holidays-fourth.htm>
- **About the USA > History > Revolutionary Period and New Nation**
<http://usa.usembassy.de/history-revolution.htm>
- **Our America: The Revolutionary War (Scholastic Update)**
http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/our_america/revolutionary_war/
- **About the USA > Government > The Flag**
<http://usa.usembassy.de/government-flag.htm>
- **Facts for Features: The Fourth of July 2005 (U.S. Census Bureau)**
<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/cb05-ff.09.pdf>
- **The Declaration of Independence**
<http://usa.usembassy.de/etexts/democrac/1.htm>
- **The Declaration of Independence (National Archives Online Exhibit)**
http://www.archives.gov/national_archives_experience/charters/declaration.html
- **Declaring Independence (Library of Congress)**
<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/declara/declara1.html>
- **Fourth of July Celebrations Database**
<http://american.edu/heintze/fourth.htm>

U.S. AID TO AFRICA



U.S. Aid to Africa Hits Record Levels

Geldof, Bono praise Bush before Group of Eight Summit

June 27, 2005

Photo: Bono walks with President Bush on their return to the White House.
(© AP/WWP)

President Bush is not a rock star or a producer but he has used the power of his presidency to aid Africans beset by the seemingly intractable challenges of poverty and disease more than anyone on the planet, according to two celebrity activists who are dedicated to keeping Africa's plight in the forefront of world attention. "[Bush] has actually done more than any American president for Africa," British producer Bob Geldof, who is the leading organizer of the "Live

8" concerts that are being held worldwide on July 2 to raise awareness of Africa's development needs, told Time Magazine recently.

Bono, lead singer of the Irish band U2 and longtime activist for aid to Africa, echoed Geldof's praise for President Bush as he told an American television interviewer June 26, "[Bush] has already doubled and tripled aid to Africa I think he has done an incredible job, his administration, on AIDS. 250,000 Africans are on anti-viral drugs; they literally owe their lives to America."

As for an overall legacy, Bono said of Bush: "If he, though, in his second term, is as bold in his commitments to Africa as he was in the first term, he indeed deserves a place in history in turning the fate of that continent around."

[Full text | Rock Star Bono Applauds Bush Efforts to Aid Africa](#)

- **U.S. Aid to Africa (Dept. of State, International Information Programs)**
http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid_to_africa.html
- **InFocus on Africa (The White House)**
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/africa/>
- **G8 Summit, Gleneagles, Scotland - July 6-8, 2005**
http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/g8_summit_2005.html
Texts in German: <http://www.us-botschaft.de/germany-ger/gipfel.html>
- **Live8 Concerts**
<http://www.live8live.com/>

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT - JULY 26, 2005

On this day in 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act, guaranteeing equal opportunity for people with disabilities in public accommodations, commercial facilities, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.

- **National Disability Employment Awareness Month July 2005 (Dept. of Labor)**
<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/odep20051102.htm>
- **Facts for Features: 15th Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act: July 26, 2005 (U.S. Census Bureau)**
http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/004998.html
- **Workforce Catalyst eNewsletter (Dept. of Labor)**
<http://www.dol.gov/odep/pubs/newsletter/200502.htm>

- **Disability Awareness in the United States (Dept. of State, International Information Programs)**
<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/able/>
- **American Community Survey 2003: Disability (U.S. Census Bureau)**
<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/disability/2003acs.html>

"FRANKLY, MY DEAR, I DON'T GIVE A DAMN"

AFI's LIST OF 100 BEST FILM QUOTES, JUNE 21, 2005

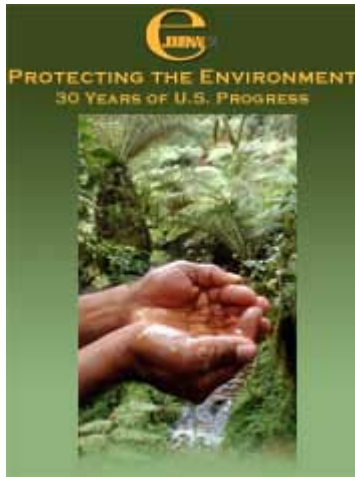
The American Film Institute released its most recent 'top 100' list of great movie quotes on June 21, 2005. "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn", from the 1939 Civil War epic *Gone With the Wind* tops the list, which was selected by a jury of 1,500 film artists, critics and historians from 400 nominated American movie quotes.

- **AFI's 100 Years... 100 Movie Quotes**
<http://www.afi.com/tvevents/100years/quotes.aspx#list>
- **AFI's 100 Years... 100 Series**
<http://www.afi.com/tvevents/100years/100yearslist.aspx>
- **About the USA > Arts > Film**
<http://usa.usembassy.de/arts-film.htm>
- **The Arts in America: Film - Movies and Modern America (Dept. of State, International Information Programs)**
<http://usa.usembassy.de/etexts/art/film.pdf>
- **Museum of the Moving Image - Online Exhibitions**
<http://www.ammi.org/site/online/index.html>
- **American Masters Database - Film/Television (PBS)**
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/database/database_filmtv.html

NASA's DEEP IMPACT - COLLISION WITH A COMET, JULY 4, 2005

The Deep Impact mission was implemented to provide a glimpse beneath the surface of a comet, where material from the solar system's formation remains relatively unchanged. Mission scientists hoped the project would answer basic questions about how the solar system formed, by providing an in-depth picture of the nature and composition of the frozen celestial travelers known as comets.

- **NASA's Deep Impact Mission (incl. multimedia materials)**
http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/deepimpact/main/index.html
- **NASA's Vision for Space Exploration**
http://www.nasa.gov/missions/solarsystem/explore_main.html
- **About the USA > Science and Technology > Space**
<http://usa.usembassy.de/technology-space.htm>
- **History of Space Exploration (Solar Views)**
<http://www.solarviews.com/eng/history.htm>



NEW ELECTRONIC JOURNAL

Protecting the Environment: 30 Years of U.S. Progress

An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, June 2005

The United States has made remarkable progress over the past 30 years in reducing pollution and protecting the environment within its borders. Statistics help tell the story. During this time, the U.S. economy grew by 187 percent, population grew by 39 percent, and energy consumption increased by 47 percent, yet air pollution decreased by 48 percent.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itqic/0605/ijge/ijge0605.htm>

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